

SURGERY IN WORLD WAR II—Vascular Surgery—Edited by Daniel C. Elkin, M.D., and Michael E. DeBakey, M.D., Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, Washington, D. C., 1956, U. S. Government Printing Office. 465 pages, \$4.25.

SURGERY IN WORLD WAR II—General Surgery—Volume II (Volume I is to be published later)—Colonel John Boyd Coates, Jr., M.D., Editor in Chief; Michael E. DeBakey, M.D., Editor for General Surgery. Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, Washington, D. C., 1955, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., 1956. 417 pages, \$4.25.

SURGERY IN WORLD WAR II—Orthopedic Surgery in the European Theater of Operations—Colonel John Boyd Coates, Jr., M.D., Editor in Chief; Mather Cleveland, M.D., Editor for Orthopedic Surgery. Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, Washington, D. C., 1956, U. S. Government Printing Office, 397 pages, \$4.00.

After a number of years and much work the Army has published three books on surgery in World War II.

The first encompasses experience in vascular surgery in the field, giving excellent statistical references as to the frequency of different kinds of injuries and the prognosis with each. There is also a section on posttraumatic vasomotor disturbances which is of considerable interest. The section on arterial repair is based upon experience at the very end of the war and, in fact, after the war was over, and has since been improved upon by the experience in Korea. However, the principles are well documented and when combined with the recent publications on the Korean experience give one a clearcut view of what can be accomplished in the field of vascular surgery under those conditions.

The second deals with general surgery in which a great deal of space is devoted to resuscitative measures, anesthesia, and the general principles connected with managing the severely wounded. These chapters are well documented, with case reports, and are written in such straightforward language as to make good reading for anyone having to deal with the severely injured. There are good statistics on visceral injuries showing the frequency of involvement of various organs and the prognosis. Of real practical value is the section on large bowel injuries which in clear form illustrates the best method of management.

The third of the three books deals with orthopedic surgery in the European Theater of Operations and also has some very good chapters on the function of consultants and the distribution of the training of personnel in various types of service hospitals. The most practical aspects of this volume have to do with the management of contaminated multiple fractures in which the principle of delayed closure and debridement is emphasized. Many of the invaluable lessons of World War I which were not put into print in any form at that time are now incorporated in this volume so that future generations of traumatic surgeons will have before them the data essential for the proper management of this type of injury. Anyone having to deal with severe industrial injuries or traffic accidents can find many useful bits of information in this volume.

FRANK GERBODE, M.D.

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CLINICAL MEMORANDA ON ECONOMIC POISONS—U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Georgia. Available by Request from the National Agricultural Chemicals Association, 910 - 17th Street, Washington 6, D. C.

With about \$250,000,000 worth of agricultural poisons sold in the United States (one-fifth of this in California) in 1956, the physician must be constantly alert to the possibility of poisoning among not only the manufacturers and users, but also among children who may have access to containers. Because of this constant hazard to health and

life, the Technology Branch of the Communicable Disease Center of the United States Public Health Service, located in Savannah, Georgia, in collaboration with the Center in Wenatchee, Washington, has prepared this booklet for the information of physicians.

The first edition was published in 1950, and it has been revised as needed. The index is placed in the front of the booklet and contains the synonyms as well as the nonproprietary and chemical names of the compounds. In the introduction it is stated that the Technical Development Laboratories of the Technology Branch conduct laboratory, field, and clinical studies to determine the toxic hazards to man involved in the use of economic poisons in public health and agriculture. The booklet is based largely upon these studies.

The introduction suggests special means of clinical and laboratory diagnosis of cases suspected of poisoning and general methods for treatment and reporting of such cases. If available laboratories are not equipped to make necessary special analyses, material may be sent to the Public Health Laboratories in either Savannah or Wenatchee, and in appendices at the back of the booklet are directions for preparing material for shipping. In the main text of the booklet, economic poisons are listed under the five main headings: Organic Phosphorus Insecticides; Chlorinated Hydrocarbon Insecticides; Solvents; Rodenticides and Miscellaneous. The chemical groups as well as each individual compound are discussed under the following headings: Chemical name and formula; commercial formulations; uses; physiological actions; dangerous acute and chronic doses to man (and often to animals); signs and symptoms of poisoning in man; laboratory findings; pathology; differential diagnosis; treatment and reporting.

Although the entire booklet consists of but 78 pages and the index and title page, it is comprehensive and adequate for most purposes of the physician. It is clearly written, accurate and soundly based on clinical as well as laboratory experience. Clinical Memoranda on Economic Poisons should be in every doctor's library.

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EXAMINATION OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM—A Student's Guide—A. Theodore Steegmann, M.D., Professor of Medicine (Neurology), University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, Kansas. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 East Illinois Street, Chicago, 1956. 164 pages, \$3.75.

This little pocket volume on the technique of neurological examination is just what a good many medical students have been asking for. In the transitional period between preclinical and clinical years, usually at the second year level, the student often finds himself with a great bag of anatomical tricks and absolutely no idea as to how to make them work at the bedside. Dr. Steegmann's concise guide is created specifically for this situation and, fortunately, does not include all the minutiae and eponyms often found in neurologic texts.

The book is fairly well illustrated with drawings and photographs relating to cranial nerve dysfunctions which are so difficult for the novice. In addition, clear charts are provided to show all the reflex centers and levels, sensory innervations, and imbalances of the extraocular muscles. For once a clear description (illustrated) is given of the technique for eliciting the plantar reflexes.

The constant reference to the central nervous system as a three-dimensional body both clinically and anatomically will help the student to integrate neuroanatomy and physiology with what he sees at the bedside.

W. W. HOFMANN, M.D.